

Antique mall fills after expanding

Sue Kieseewetter, Enquirer contributor 3:48 p.m. EST November 11, 2015



(Photo: Provided photo)

FAIRFIELD – Just two weeks after adding 22,000 square feet of space and 140 booths, the Ohio Valley Antique Mall has less than a half-dozen spaces left to rent.

And when those spaces are leased, officials say there will still be a need for additional space in the mall, located on Ohio 4 at Boymel Drive, about a half-mile north of Interstate 275.

“Even with the few spaces I have left, we’ll still have a waiting list,” said Terri Spoerl, the mall’s manager.

The mall opened in January 2008 with 65,000 square feet of space in what used to be a Van Leunens store.

This month’s expansion allowed owners Paula and Barry Faxon to add about 100 new dealers and 146 new booths, said Carly Martin, the Faxon’s daughter who handles marketing.

“People were chomping at the bit, calling us on a daily basis about wanting to come in,” Martin said. “Nobody was moving out – some of our dealers wanted more space. We decided to bite the bullet and expand.”

Forty percent of the space went to dealers already located at the mall. Sue Wagner and her partner Kathie Vonderhaar took a second booth in the expanded space.

The businesswomen initially waited a year to get a booth at the mall. Within a year of opening, they knew they needed more space.

“We jumped at the chance to get another booth,” Wagner said.

The two women buy furniture and antiques, refurbish them or repurpose them and sell the items.

“We’re giving new life – new nobs, stenciling, something to give an older piece a new look,” Wagner said.

The duo sells darker colored pieces from their original booth and lighter-colored items from their second booth across the mall.

Greg Kathman, Fairfield’s economic development manager, said the city was pleased the Faxons decided to expand. The mall expanded into what had been an All About Sports in the plaza. About 12,000 square feet of space in the old Laser Web still remain vacant.

“That was a big space they filled. They’ve proven to be successful and had a good draw. They’re running their business very well and providing a product people are interested in,” Kathman said.

“It’s a nice draw for the city, particularly the Route 4 business district. It draws a lot of customers from the region, not just Fairfield. They created economic activity where there previously was none.”

Most items sold in the mall date from the 1960s or earlier – even back to the early 1800s, Spoerl said. There are also dealers specializing in certain types of glassware, pottery and jewelry.

A few dealers of sports memorabilia and newer collectibles also have spaces.

“We’re not a flea market and don’t want to be,” Spoerl said.

Many of the dealers – like the Faxons – came from the former Brass Armadillo antique mall located about a mile away. Spoerl managed that antique mall until it closed in 2007 and was recruited by the Faxons.

The mall is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.

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